S. Meriffield, Commissioner in the USNRC, visited India for holding discussions with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Mumbai, on safety and regulatory matters related to nuclear installations, during 7-11, February 2005. A technical workshop on nuclear safety was also held during this visit. This visit was a sequel to the visit of an AERB delegation to the USNRC in September 2004.

The USNRC delegation visited the DHRUVA research reactor and some engineering R&D facilities in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 7.2.2005. The delegation also visited the Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1&2 and the 540 MW Tarapur Units 3&4 under construction/ commissioning. Commissioner Merriffield and another staff of the USNRC and two staff members of US Embassy, New Delhi also visited the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station sites. Similarly, Indian delegation had visited Surry Nuclear Power Station, Large fire test facility of National Institute of Standards and Technology and University of Maryland of USA in September 2003 and Argonne National Laboratory of USA in September 2004.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Exchange of scientific visits by the scientists of various organisations under the Department of Atomic Energy and similar organisations of other countries under bilateral programmes in the field of nuclear science & technology is a regular feature. However, visits to nuclear installations are allowed only selectively and are confirmed only to non-sensitive areas.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal production from private sector coal blocks

†1115. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has to allot 168 coal blocks to private sector out of which 75 blocks have been allotted but only 11 of them have started production;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these private entrepreneurs who had taken the said blocks for establishing industry, have not established the same, so far, and the coal is being sold directly in markets as a result of which it is causing losses to Government worth hundreds of crores of rupees; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by government to avoid the said situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Out of 146 coal blocks identified for allotment for captive mining, 86 coal blocks have so far been allocated/decided for allocation. Out of these 26 blocks, production has commenced in 8 blocks.

(b) and (c) No incident of selling of coal in violation of the condition of captive use of coal in their end-use plant has come to the notice of the Central Government except in the case of M/s Central Collieries Company Ltd., who have reportedly sold coal mined from the Takli-Jena-Bellora (South) coal block allocated for captive mining of coal for use in their proposed power plant. The lease granted by the Government of Maharashtra in favour of them in respect of the said block has been voided by the Central Government in exercise of its power of revision under the Mines & Minerals. (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

In order to avoid recurrence of such situation, the allocations of coal blocks for captive mining are made, *inter alia,* subject to the condition that the allocatees would develop the coal mine and install the end-use plant within a time-frame. They are also required to submit a detailed bar chart of development of the coal mine and installation of the end use plant. The progress of work in the matter is monitored by the Coal Controller against the given milestones, a half yearly report on such progress is submitted to the Ministry of Coal. Further, it has been decided by the Government to allow disposal of any surplus coal produced by the allocattee during the development period of the mine, to the local Coal India subsidiary, at a price to be determined by the Government, to facilitate synchronisation of coal production with setting up of the end use plant.

Coal blocks allotted to NTPC

1116. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the blocks alongwith location, sought for captive mining by NTPC.